

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. - 23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

- a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising a sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:167, or a full complement thereof, in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and
- b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;

wherein a decrease of at least 50% in a level of expression of the nucleic acid in the patient sample relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleic acid has the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:167.

27. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:

- (a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:167, or a full complement thereof, in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and
- (b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;

wherein a decrease in a level of expression of the nucleic acid of at least 50% in the patient sample relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24 or claim 27 wherein the decrease in the level of the nucleic acid in (a) relative to the level of the nucleic acid in the second sample is at least 100%.

30-36 (Cancelled)

37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 24 wherein the nucleotide sequence at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:167 encodes a polypeptide having the same activity as EGR1.

38. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:
a) determining the level of a nucleotide sequence that hybridizes under highly stringent conditions to SEQ ID NO:167, or the complete complement thereof, in a patient colon sample; wherein hybridization is performed at 60°C in a solution with a sodium ion concentration from about 0.01 to 1.0M, pH 7.0 to 8.3 comprising formamide; and
b) comparing said level of nucleotide sequence in (a) to a level of the nucleotide sequence in a second sample, said second sample comprising a negative control comprising non-cancerous tissue;

wherein a decrease of at least 50% in the level of the nucleotide sequence in (a) relative to the level of the nucleotide sequence in the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.

39. (Currently amended) A method of diagnosing colon cancer comprising:
(a) determining the level of a nucleic acid comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes the polypeptide encoded by SEQ ID NO:167 in a patient sample comprising colon tissue; and
(b) comparing the level of the nucleic acid in (a) to a level of the nucleic acid in a second sample, said second sample comprising non-cancerous colon tissue;
wherein a decrease in a level of expression of the nucleic acid of at least 50% in the patient sample relative to the second sample indicates that the patient has colon cancer.